

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated March 19, 2004. To summarize the claim amendments made herein: non-elected claims 15-25 have been canceled and the apparatus claims 1-14 have been replaced by new claims 26-46. No new matter is considered introduced in new claims 26-46 which are directed at the elected subject matter as discussed in the election below.

The Office Action is in the form of a restriction requiring election of one of the following two Groups:

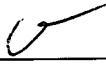
Group I, claims 1-14 (replaced by new claims 26-46 as discussed above), drawn to an apparatus for pre-hydrolysis; and

Group II, claims 15-25, drawn to a biomass pre-hydrolysis.

Applicant hereby elects Group I (formerly including claims 1-14 and now represented by new claims 26-46) for prosecution in this application.

If any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 are due in this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033970.002. If an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is necessary and not included herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033970.002.

Respectfully submitted,  
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